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# PRIORITY URGED ON INDONESIA AID

3 Senators Back Program  
After Tour Of Asia

WASHINGTON, March 22 (AP)—Three Democratic senators who recently toured Southeast Asia today urged that Indonesia should be given "top priority" in the American aid program.

The recommendation by Sen. Frank McGee (Wyo.), Church (Utah) and Moss (Utah) runs counter to the harsh views on Indonesia that have been ascribed to the Clay Committee, the special group named by President Kennedy to take a "hard look" at the program.

While the Clay Committee report, due for release this week, has been cast in news dispatches as being critical of the policies of the Sukarno Government, the three senators took a more optimistic view.

"Golden Opportunity"

Assessing that the United States has a "golden opportunity to bring Indonesia within the sphere of really independent and energetic nations," the senators praised President Sukarno's new emphasis on economic problems, noting the West Irian dispute with the Netherlands has been "settled."

Nevertheless, they emphasized the need for stabilization of the Indonesian currency and a tightening up of the American aid program with high-caliber officials working with the people in the outback areas.

The three Democrats contended that while Indonesia has received financial and military assistance from both the United States and the Soviet Union, "it stands alone in its great determination to avoid domination by outside influences."

"Red China's Shadow"

In their seven-page report, the senators maintained that the United States sometimes has been "too concerned about Communist influence in Southeast Asia" and that assistance from the United States has been "too cautious."

The shadow of Communist China, which falls across this entire Southeast Asian area is the "single factor" to be taken into account if the United States is to maintain its influence in the area, they declared.

Without the Soviet Union, without the shadow of Communist China, the United States would find it to be the "easiest thing in the world" to maintain its influence in the area, they declared.

The report said that some of our own policies in the area were "outdated" in the context of American aid policy, which would not take into account the real situation in the category of aid to the attitudes to aid to direct Soviet military assistance to Indonesia.

It is important that we take a new, fresh and realistic look at our traditional policy position in every country stretching all the way from Korea and Japan in the north to Malaya and Indonesia in the south.

The report said the impact of Chinese aggression against India has been "mainly salutary" in Southeast Asia because many dissident groups have closed ranks against China.

Yet it noted a fear that "no matter what the non-Communist powers might do, Communist China was destined to rule the area" and therefore some small countries might "play along with Peking."

The three senators, in discussing other countries, urged a reduction in military aid for Formosa; deplored the failure of the Diem Government in South Vietnam to draw popular support; expressed "cautious optimism" over the tightening of the aid program in Korea; and lamented the lack of policy alternatives to the increasing American commitment in Laos.

In their judgment on the aid program they called for a better priority selection system among countries and within countries, enforcement of tighter controls on assistance efforts and "constant" reductions in the number of officials.

On the latter count, the lawmakers suggested that a hearing be held in Washington on the personnel question.

While some aid administrators have suggested new laws to permit the "selective removal" of agency employees, McGee, Church and Moss held that "the focal point of this problem seemed to be the personnel question."